

Superior Court of California

Hall of Justice 800 South Victoria Avenue Ventura, CA 93009

> Michael D. Planet Executive Officer/Clerk and Jury Commissioner

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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VENTURA SUPERIOR COURT CELEBRATES COURT ADOPTION AND PERMANENCY MONTH

The Ventura Superior Court will join courts from throughout California in celebrating "Court Adoption and Permanency Month."

California Supreme Court Justice Ronald M. George, on behalf of the Judicial Council of California, has proclaimed November as a month dedicated to further improving administration of justice for proceedings involving children and families.

In 2000, over 581,000 children in California were alleged to be victims of child maltreatment. There are more than 105,000 children in the state living apart from their families, and 17 percent of children in foster care have spent five or more years in foster homes. The mean length of stay in foster care in California is 32 months. Approximately 5,000 children are placed in adoptive homes and an estimated 4,000 are adopted each year.

To promote Court Adoption and Permanency Month, the Ventura Superior Court will place a stronger emphasis on permanency planning and adoptions throughout the month of November.

On November 6, 2001, an Adoption and Permanency Information Fair will be held in the main courtyard of the Government Center. The public is invited to attend and talk with participants from several organizations who provide services and support to foster and adoptive parents.

During its calendar on November 16, 2001, the court will present special certificates to those families whose adoptions are before the court on that day.

Individuals interested in obtaining more information on adoptions should contact David Weinreich, Adoption Supervisor, with the Human Services Agency at (805) 654-3436.